reaction system where the compound ROH (in which R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group) and oxirane react with each other is not more than 5 ppm.

Claim 7, line 3, please delete "any one of Claims (1) to (4)" and insert --Claim 1 or Claim 2--.

Please add the following new claims:

8. The oxirane derivative according to Claim 3, wherein R in the general formula [1] is CH_3.

9. A process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative as defined in Claim 3, wherein the water content in the reaction system where the compound ROH (in which R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group) and the oxirane react with each other is not more than 5 ppm.

10. The process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative according to Claim 9, wherein R in the general formula [1] is CH_3.

11. An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [2] prepared from an oxirane derivative as defined in Claim 3 as a starting material:

$$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y \qquad [2]$$

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

12. An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [2] prepared from an oxirane derivative as defined in Claim 4 as a starting material:

$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y$ [2]

wherein R represents a $C_{1\text{-}7}$ hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a $C_{1\text{-}3}$ hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

13. An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [2] prepared from an oxirane derivative as defined in Claim 8 as a starting material:

$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y$ [2]

wherein R represents a $C_{1\text{-}7}$ hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a $C_{1\text{-}3}$ hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. New claims 8-13 have been added.

Claims 1-7 have been amended and new claims 8-13 have been added to resolve multiple dependency problems in Claims 1-7. New Claim 8 was split from Claim 4. New Claim 9 was split from Claim 5. New Claim 10 is based on new Claim 9. New Claims 11, 12 and 13 were split from Claim 7.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that no question of new matter arises, and entry of this amendment is, therefore, respectfully requested.